

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Lisa Goldman
Acting City Manager

Date: January 4, 2011

Re: Authorize the Acting City Manager to Amend a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency to Allocate Additional Funds in the Amount of \$528,000 for the Implementation of the Webster Street Smart Corridor Management Project for a Total Amount of \$1,638,000, and to Execute all Necessary Documents to Implement the Project

BACKGROUND

The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) is implementing SMART Corridor projects along key corridors in Alameda County to address traffic congestion, improve transit service, and enhance emergency access. These projects are designed to improve existing transportation infrastructure efficiency without increasing its physical capacity.

In September 2008, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ACCMA to implement a \$1.1 million SMART Corridor project along the Webster Street corridor, including the Posey/Webster Tubes. The project recently was selected to receive \$528,000 in additional funding grants from regional agencies to enhance the project elements. To receive these funds, the City Council must approve an amendment to the MOU (Exhibit 1).

DISCUSSION

The Webster Street SMART corridor project is designed to address congestion along Webster Street from Central Avenue in Alameda to the 7th Street and Harrison Street intersection in Oakland, including the Posey/Webster Tubes. The project elements include:

- Transit Signal Priority at signals to allow for additional green time for AC Transit buses.
- Traffic Signal Coordination to improve traffic flow and reduce air emissions caused by idling.
- A new traffic signal at the intersection of Webster Street and Pacific Avenue to enhance signal coordination on Webster Street and to improve pedestrian access.

- Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) strategies including real time data collection devices for traffic speed, volume, and lane occupancy; traffic monitoring cameras at key locations to provide real time traffic conditions to Public Works, Fire, and Police; Changeable Message Signs (CMS) at key locations in the City to advise motorists of delays and vehicular incidents in the tubes and guide them to alternate routes; and emergency evacuation information to street users during emergencies, such as an earthquake.
- Traffic Signal Preemption for first responders to allow emergency vehicles to control the operations of the signals and result in improved emergency response time.

Due to its regional importance in improving traffic conditions in the vicinity of the Posey/Webster Tubes in Alameda and Oakland, the project has received funding support from several funding agencies. The additional monies are being provided to supplement the following project elements:

1. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has committed funding in the amount of \$278,000 to install CMS on Constitution Way near Lincoln Avenue and Central Avenue near Webster Street, and to provide fiber optic connectivity to the monitoring cameras at the Alameda Police dispatch center. Two cameras will be installed near the Posey/Webster Tubes portals to provide real time traffic information to Public Works, Police, and Fire during an emergency or traffic incident.
2. The City received a Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) Program Manager grant in the amount of \$100,000 to implement signal coordination along Constitution Way. This grant was added to this project to provide more comprehensive traffic management along the Webster Street corridor and to achieve economy of scale savings.
3. The City received \$100,000 from the U.S Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) to install energy efficient equipment at key locations. The purchase of the equipment is expected to be complete in early 2011.
4. The City received an additional \$50,000 in TFCA Program Manager funds from the ACCMA by exchanging Measure B monies previously allocated to this project for a new traffic signal at the Webster Street and Pacific Avenue intersection. The signal design has been incorporated in the project elements.

Public Works staff has been working with the West Alameda Business Association (WABA), College of Alameda, and other property owners in the area to coordinate the project implementation. Staff made presentations to the Transportation Commission and the WABA Board on the elements of the project. Additionally, the project is being implemented in coordination with the Alameda Housing Authority, Police, and Fire Departments, and Alameda Municipal Power.

The project design is complete and staff, in coordination with ACCMA, is currently in the process of acquiring project approvals from Caltrans. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by the end of 2011.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total cost of the project is increased from \$1,110,000 to \$1,638,000, with \$920,00 in TFCA's Program Manager fund, \$340,000 in ACCMA federal funds, \$278,000 in MTC Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds, and \$100,000 in EECBG funds. ACCMA will administer the funds. There is no impact to the General Fund.

MUNICIPAL CODE/POLICY DOCUMENT CROSS REFERENCE

This project supports the General Plan Objective 4.1.3, "Preserve mobility for emergency response vehicles and maintain emergency access to people and property", and Policy 41.1.6.c, "Coordinate with appropriate agencies to utilize emerging technologies (e.g. transit-priority systems for traffic signals and real-time information to enable travelers to choose the best routes) for bridges and tubes." In addition, the project supports the Climate Protection Action Plan, Transportation and Land Use Initiative #2, "Provide transit and shuttles with signal priority lanes and queue jumpers to make transit a more attractive alternative to the automobile."

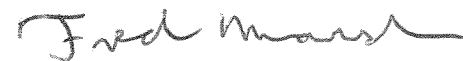
RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Acting City Manager to amend a MOU with the ACCMA to allocate additional funds in the amount of \$528,000 for the implementation of the Webster Street smart corridor management project for a total amount of \$1,638,000, and to execute all necessary documents to implement the project.

Respectfully submitted,


Matthew T. Naclerio
Public Works Director

Approved as to funds and account,


Fred Marsh
Controller

MTN:OK:gc

Exhibit:

1. First Amendment to the MOU with the ACCMA for the Implementation of the Webster Street Smart Corridor Management (on file in the City Clerk's office).